United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General condemns killing of three Indian doctors in attack on UNOSOM II field hospital in Somalia; Under-Secretary-General Annan and General Baril to review situation on ground.

+ United Nations Emergency Office in Rwanda sets up task force to facilitate resettlement of refugees; Secretary-General voices concern at delay in resumption of talks between Rwandan and Zairean Governments.

+ Secretary-General to leave New York on Friday to attend International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo; to visit Pakistan, India, Japan and China over next two weeks.

+ UNCTAD issues World Investment Report 1994: Transnational Corporations, Employment and the Workplace.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today strongly condemned the killing of three Indian doctors serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). The doctors were killed by a mortar round or grenade while working at an Indian field hospital in Baidoa. The Secretary-General noted that they had been providing medical services to the Somali population in the region, in addition to performing their duties with the Operation. His Special Representative in Somalia, Victor Gbeho, immediately launched an investigation into the attack.

After the incident, the Secretary-General asked the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, and his Military Adviser, General Maurice Baril, to travel to Somalia to review the situation on the ground and to make recommendations to him. The timing of that mission will be announced soon.

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The United Nations Emergency Office in Kigali has established a task force to coordinate efforts to resettle Rwandan refugees, according to a

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spokesman for the Organization. He noted that there were some 1.9 million refugees and 800,000 internally displaced persons to be dealt with. In addition, the Government of Rwanda has asked the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to help repatriate 80,000 Rwandans living in Burudi.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed concern at the delay in the resumption of talks between the Governments of Rwanda and Zaire on the refugee problem. The spokesman said the Secretary-General had sent a personal message to the Zairean President underscoring the importance of the talks.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave New York on Friday for Cairo, where he will attend the International Conference on Population and Development, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General will address the opening meeting of the Conference on Monday.

The Secretary-General will later pay official visits to Pakistan and India, followed by a working visit to Japan on 12 and 13 September. While there, he will have talks aimed at reinforcing relations between the United Nations and Japan in the fields of economic and social development, and peace-keeping. He will then pay an official visit to China, before returning to New York around 19 September.

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The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has issued its World Investment Report 1994: Transnational Corporations, Employment and the Workplace. The report urges policy makers to find innovative ways to meet rapid changes in the global economy, citing the growing influence of transnational corporations. It estimates that those corporations have global sales in excess of $4.8 trillion -- more than the value of world trade -- and that they employ some 73 million people. As a major force in the internationalization of economic activities, they influence the quantity and quality of jobs available worldwide.

Developing countries attracted a total of $80 billion in foreign direct investment in 1993, with China accounting for $26 billion, according to the report. Africa attracted just $3 billion, despite structural adjustments in many countries. The continent will continue to need official development assistance to create the basis for self-sustained growth. Flows to Central and Eastern Europe totaled just $5 billion. Fears voiced a few years ago that foreign direct investment in the region would be at the expense of investment in developing countries were unjustified, UNCTAD concluded.

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